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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Impact on children of armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/157 entitled "Protection of children affected by armed conflicts". The Assembly expressed its grave concern about the tragic situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts; urged all Member States to continue seeking comprehensive improvement of the situation, taking appropriate and concrete measures to alleviate it; and requested bodies and organizations of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within the scope of their respective mandates to cooperate in order to ensure more effective action in addressing the problem of children affected by armed conflicts.

2. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint an expert, working in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund, to undertake a comprehensive study of this question, including the participation of children in armed conflict, as well as the relevance and adequacy of existing standards, and to make specific recommendations on ways and means of preventing children from being affected

by armed conflicts and of improving the protection of children in armed conflicts and on measures to ensure effective protection of these children, including indiscriminate use of all weapons of war, especially anti-personnel mines, and to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, in particular, measures to ensure proper medical care and adequate nutrition, taking into account the recommendations by the World Conference on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Assembly requested Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to contribute to the Study.

3. Ms. Graça Machel (Mozambique) has been appointed to undertake the study in question.

4. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the resolution, a progress report on the study was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/643), which will be available to the Commission at its fifty-first session. Subsequent to the submission of this progress report, the expert conducted a field visit to Rwanda and to the refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. The expert also convened the first meeting of her Technical Advisory Group, which will advise her on matters of scope and substance throughout the study.

5. In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the General Assembly invited the Commission on Human Rights to consider the study at its fifty-first session.